

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Please amend the figures as shown in the enclosed replacement sheet. The attached sheet includes changes to Figure 24. The label Prior Art has been added to Figure 24.

REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for carefully considering this application.

Disposition of Claims

Claims 1-17 are pending in this application. Claims 1 and 3 are independent. Claim 4 depends from claim 3, while the remaining claims depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 1. Claim 8-15 are withdrawn but still pending, as claim 1 from which the claims depend is generic to both elected and non-elected species.

Objections to the Specification

The Examiner objected to the specification for typographical and grammatical errors. Paragraphs [0008], [0009], [0011], [0015], [0019], [0028], [0093], [0105], and [0114] have been amended to address the errors. Accordingly, removal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Objections to the Drawings

The Examiner objected to Figure 24 for not being labeled Prior Art. The drawings have amended to include the label Prior Art in Figure 24. Accordingly, removal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Claim Amendments

Claims 1, 3, and 7 have been amended by way of this reply. Claims 1 and 7 have been amended to correct grammatical errors. Claim 1 has also been amended to more precisely recite the present invention. Support for the amendments can be found, for example, in Figures

2 and 3. Further, claim 3 has been amended into independent form. No new matter has been added by the amendments.

Objections to the Claims

The Examiner objected to the claims for grammatical errors. The claims have been amended to correct the errors. Accordingly, removal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 3 and 4 contain allowable subject matter. Claim 3 has been rewritten as an independent claim. Claim 4 is dependent from claim 3. Thus, claims 3 and 4 are now in condition for allowance.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 2, 16, and 17 of the present application were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application No. 2002/0134635 (“Teraoka”). Claim 1 has been amended to include a portion of the limitations of allowable claim 3. To the extent that this rejection may still apply to the amended claims, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 as amended requires, in part, “a penetrating portion formed in the first rotational member and facing the pressurizing member” and “a transmission member disposed in the penetrating portion and interposed between the pressurizing member and the second rotational member, for transferring a thrust of the pressurizing member to the second rotational member.”

Teraoka discloses a coupling for a vehicle which the Examiner asserts has a first rotational member 11 and a second rotational member 9 disposed rotatable relative to each other.

However, the first rotational member 11 of Teraoka clearly lacks a penetrating portion facing a pressurizing member 17. Further, there is no transmission member disposed between the pressurizing member 17 and the second rotational member 9. In light of the lack of disclosure or suggestion of at least these limitations, claim 1 as amended is patentable over Teraoka. Claims 2 and 16-17 are dependent, directly or indirectly, from claim 1. Thus, claims 2 and 16-17 are patentable over Teraoka, for at least the same reasons as claim 1. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 5-7, and 17 of the present application were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,080,640 ("Botterill"). Claim 1 has been amended as explained above. To the extent that this rejection may still apply to the amended claims, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 as amended requires, in part, "a penetrating portion formed in the first rotational member and facing the pressurizing member" and "a transmission member disposed in the penetrating portion and interposed between the pressurizing member and the second rotational member, for transferring a thrust of the pressurizing member to the second rotational member."

Botterill discloses a differential unit for a vehicle which the Examiner asserts has a first rotational member 12 and a second rotational member 14 disposed rotatable relative to each other. However, the first rotational member 12 of Botterill clearly lacks a penetrating portion facing a pressurizing member 28, 54. Further, there is no transmission member disposed between the pressurizing member 28, 54 and the second rotational member 14. Thus, claim 1 as amended is patentable over Botterill, at least for the above reasons. Claims 5-7 and 17 are dependent, either directly or indirectly, from claim 1. Thus, claims 5-7 and 17 are patentable

over Botterill, for at least the same reasons as claim 1. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Non-Elected Claims

Additionally, as claim 1 is a generic claim which covers the non-elected species on which withdrawn claims 8-15 read, consideration and allowance of these claims for the same reasons as claim 1 is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places the present application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account No. 50-0591, under Order No. 04995/141001 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

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